

## CALLINGTON'S HEALTH IN 1914.

Dr. H. Davis, jun., has issued the following report on public health and sanitary conditions for his district for the year 1914:—

The district consists of 2,492 acres, with a population of 1,713 living in 434 houses, an average of four persons per house. The social conditions during the year are affected by the absence of many men on active service and the presence of about 30 Belgian refugees.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births registered in the district was 33, 19 males and 14 females, a birth-rate of 19.2 per 1,000 per annum; slightly below the county rate of 19.9. The number of deaths registered was 17, 5 males and 12 females, a death-rate of 9.9 per 1,000 per annum; of these one was a non-resident, and being transferable away is deducted. On the other hand, five deaths of persons belonging to the district, which occurred in various public institutions outside the district, have to be added, being inward transferable cases. The result is, corrected number of deaths 21, with a rate of 12.2, comparing favourably with the county rate of 13.7.

Thirty-three births and twenty-one deaths give a natural increase of twelve. The ages at death were as follows—under 1 year, 0; 2 and under 5, 1; 25 and under 45, 2; 45 and under 65, 6; 65 and upwards, 11. Of these 7 were over 70, 2 at 84, and 1 at 93, these figures indicating an absence of infant deaths, and a remarkably high old-age mortality, are very satisfactory. The following were the causes of death—influenza, 1; erysipelas, 1; respiratory diseases, 6; cancer, 2; heart disease, 1; appendicitis, 1; other cases, 8. There was one inquest case.

**INFANT MORTALITY.**—In this important matter the district invariably maintains a good position. As already stated, no death occurred during the first year of life; one death took place at three years from bronchitis.

**ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE.**—One death occurred from erysipelas, the only death from a disease notifiable in the district under the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Two cases of erysipelas have been notified, one being fatal. It has been impossible to trace these cases to any definite local cause. The only other case notified was a case of diphtheria, the diagnosis of which was confirmed by bacteriological examination. Here again no local cause could be discovered, investigation indicated importation; the usual precautions were taken, and up to the present there has been no further development. Under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations there has been no notification of pulmonary tuberculosis, but two other cases of tuberculosis have been notified. One temporary resident has been given domiciliary treatment under the personal supervision of the county tuberculosis officer, a hut being provided by the County Authority. The patient, much improved, has now left the district.

With regard to non-notifiable infectious diseases, I believe, as far as information enables me to say, there has been nothing of importance. The masters of the various schools are always kept informed respecting the prevalence of infectious diseases, and the assistance they render at all times is most valuable. Circulars respecting the relation between civil and military authorities have been carefully considered, also with regard to the prevention of small pox and typhoid fever, but no action has been necessary, as no troops have been quartered in the district. The district is without an isolation hospital, and has no disinfecting apparatus, but rooms are fumigated and disinfectants supplied when necessary.

### SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The sewers have given no trouble, and there has been no reason for structural changes. The cutfalls at Newport are satisfactory, and the one in Frogwell-road has, with care, maintained a fair condition. The gullies have required some modification. In the streets, they answer their purpose well, but in the approaches to the town, more the nature of roads, where débris is more abundant, choking of the gratings sometimes occurs. For this reason, and to avoid flooding of the lower parts of the town, should storm-water become excessive at night, three large mason's traps have been constructed. The gratings of these are so large that choking is most improbable, and their capacity such that a large amount of silt can be contained before the stream is intercepted. Up to the present they have perfectly fulfilled

their purpose. Four old drains have been repaired, seven new drains have been laid, with properly fixed gullies, ventilation shafts and inspection chambers; all have been smoke-tested and found satisfactory. Four drains have been choked, some as usual from carelessness regarding materials thrown into them.

### WATER SUPPLY.

Much of the water supply is still derived from private pumps, and the public stream at Pipe-well, which has services distributed over the lower part of the town for convenience. The Waterworks Company supplies rather more than half the town. From these various sources a very fair supply has been maintained throughout the year, the company giving a constant supply when water is plentiful and intermittent during periods of drought. Apart from the water required for domestic purposes, the Council pay a sum for the use of hydrants and water in case of fire. It has been obvious for some years that there has been a steadily decreasing pressure in the mains; investigation was considered necessary, and the pressure at the hydrants was tested in the presence of members of the Council and Company. The result was conclusive, that in the event of fire the supply from the hydrants, particularly in Valentine-row, Liskeard-road, and Tavistock-road, would be of very little use. At a subsequent joint meeting of the Council and Company the latter assured the Council that their intention to thoroughly examine the mains would take effect forthwith. An excellent idea has occurred, that the stream at Pipe-well might be used in case of fire. To carry this out a means of access has been made to the stream, by which an abundant supply can be obtained, even in times of drought, and with a good length of hose a considerable part of the town could be dealt with.

I have made many analyses of water from various sources, and find all of excellent quality with the exception of one pump, water from which is no longer used for domestic purposes.

### TRADE PREMISES.

About 40 places on the register are kept under observation. The defects usually found are want of cleanliness and lime washing. Sanitary conditions are satisfactory, drainage is good, and the question of means of escape in case of fire does not occur. Bakehouses, slaughter-houses and dairies on the whole are good, but the conditions in and around some of the cowsheds are not so satisfactory, and will call for your consideration and action.

### HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

Five new houses have been built and two old ones demolished. Healthy dwellings, thus replacing unhealthy ones, has been the order of events for many years, and a gradual improvement in housing is being effected. But there still remain some houses that, to say the least, are undesirable for habitation. Their rental is low, and with this only recommendation, are never without occupants. This question will require your early consideration, more especially in its relation to the prevention of tubercular diseases.

### HOUSE AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

#### TABULAR STATEMENT.

Dwelling houses inspected .....	80
Action taken with regard to houses unfit for habitation .....	0
General character of defects found to exist:	
Choked drains .....	4
Offensive accumulations .....	10
Overcrowding .....	3
General repairs .....	20
Damp walls and roofs .....	12
In addition to the above, minor matters dealt with informally are of almost daily occurrence. Two houses have had extensive repairs. Referring to a circular, there is no room in the district three feet underground used as a sleeping-room.	

### SOAVENTING AND HOUSE REFUSE.

The Authority is responsible for this work, which is done by contract in a very satisfactory manner. There has been a marked improvement in provision of better ashbins during the year, and three ashpits receiving ashes and refuse of many houses have been abolished, about 20 ashbins being substituted.

### BY-LAWS.

The following by-laws are in force in the districts, namely, with regard to nuisances, new buildings, slaughter-houses, and dairies and cowsheds. The Infectious Disease (Notification Act 1889, and Part III Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890, have been adopted.

